of wastelands in the entire Gujarat State is not available. Out of the total 19 districts of Gujarat. National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) Hyderbad has covered wasteland's mapping only for 13 districts. The NRSA Hyderabad had reported the total area of 20.99 Lakh has of wastelands in these 13 districts as per Statement. (*See* below)

(b) Due to poor soil health, Wastelands are generally recommended for production of biomass especially for fuelwood and fodder and such areas are not generally fit for cultivation.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The on-going Central Sector Investment Promotional Scheme for development of Non forast Wastelands (IFS) envisages involving corporaes sector in the development of wastlands. The objective of the scheme is to facilitate/attract/channelise/mobilize ressources from financial institutions, banks, corporate bodies including user industries and other entrepreneur for development of non forest wastelands belonging to Central/State Governments Panchyat, Village Community. Private Farmers etc.

Under the scheme, Central promotional subsidy/grant is provided by the Central Government subject to a maximum of Rs. 25.00 lakhs or 25% of the total cost of the project as approved and firmed up by the financial institutions/banks, whichever is less. In addition, project formulation assistance for the preparation of bankable/viable projects at the rate of 1% of the project cost is permissible; however, in the case of projects promoted by members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, they are eligible for 50% promotional grant/ subsidy subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50,000 per project, in addition to the provision of 1% of the project cost as project formulation assistance.

Stamement

Area of Wasteland in Gujarat

S. No.	Districts	Area (in lakh he.)
1.	Ahmedabad	1.10
2.	Amreli	0.50
3.	Bhavnagar	1.96
4.	Banaskantha	2.74
5.	Gandhinagar	0.03
6.	Jamnagar	2.69
7.	Junagadh	3.14
8.	Kheda	0.53
9.	Mehsana	0.62
10.	Panchamahal	1.36
11.	Rajkot	2.00
12.	Sabarkantha	1.52
13.	Surendra Nagar	2.61
	Total:	20.99

Source: National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad (1995)

Drinking Water Supply Under Bhauna Devi Ram Ganga Water Project in Almora District

2075. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of the Bhauna Devi-Ram Ganga Water Project started in 1984-85, to supply drinking water to about 20 villages in Bhikiasain block in Almora district;

(b) whether the work for supplying drinking water to the targeted villages has started; if so, the details of villages where drinking water is reaching; and

(c) what are the details of villages where water was proposed to be supplied but the same has not been made available till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allocation to Andhra Pradesh Under IAY

2076. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the budgetary allocation for IAY during 1996-97; and

(b) the amount earmarked for Andhra Pradesh during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA): (a) Rs. 1140 crores as Central allocation udner India Awas Yojana have been so for allocated to various States/UTs during 1996-97.

(b) The Central allocation for Andhra Pradesh under Indira Awas Yojand during 1996-97 is Rs. 88.70 crores.

Budgetary support to Science Education

2077. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of science and technology be pleased to state:

(a) whether decline in funding for scientific research is widening the gap between India and the West in frontier areas of science, as observed by the 84th Indian Science Congress held recently;

(b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken to ensure that the situation is not worsened due to short-sighted policies; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase budgetary support to science education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. India's contribution to frontier areas of Science has been significant. It has been observed in the 84th Session of the Indian Science Congress that in order to do competitive Research and Development, India has to increase its R & D funding. the Plan allocations for Science and Technology have been substantially increased during the 8th Plan (1992—97) period over the 7th Plan Period.

(c) Support for Science Education in the budgets of States/Union Territories is included in the budgetary provisions for the University and Higher Education and Technical Education. The allocation on this account in the Budgets of States and Centre has been on the rise. Ministry of Human Resources Development has also a programme specifically for improvement of Science Education at school levels and the expenditure under this scheme is also on the increase.

Setting up of Commercial Genetic Testing and Counselling Units

2078. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have granted permission to Pro Gene Inc., USA, to set up a chain of commercial genetic testing and counselling units in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concrete measures taken by Government against all sorts of misuse of the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) and (b) The Government